CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY

East Germany

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT

SED Control and Financing of the CDU

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- Since early in 1952 it has been impossible for the local organizations of the CDU to select their secretaries without the approval of the "Democratic Bloc" (controlled by the SED). When public officials are to be designated by the CDU, the SED sometimes nominates the individuals whom it wishes for the posts. The SED also exercises a veto over nominations originated by the CDU.
- 2. Until the middle of 1952 the CDU was financed by membership dues ranging up to 125 marks per month and by the income from its publications. The money was controlled by the state organizations, but Gerald Götting as secretary general introduced a strict centralization of the finances, and funds are now distributed by the zonal authorities. There is usually a deficit, the amount of which is communicated to the SED by Götting or by his secretary for organization; the sum is then paid in cash at a private address in Berlin-Altglienicke.
- 3. Götting or a deputy visited the Central Committee of the SED every two or three days. The SED maintained two official liaison agents for the CDU, who apparently belonged to an office for coordination with the other political parties. During 1952 these persons were Bruno Wolf and a Mrs. Burkhardt; Wolf has since been arrested.
- 4. Although in 1951 the CDU had invited a number of West German guests to its main committee meeting, in 1952 the invitations were sent out by the SED. A list of 125 prospects prepared by the CDU was reduced to 15, of whom only one (Wilhelm Karl Gerst) actually attended the meeting.

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